

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus is described for a free space optical communication link that transmits and receives an optical signal using phase incoherent light. In one embodiment, the phase incoherent light source may be a Superluminescent Light Emitting Diode (SLED). Use of phase incoherent light reduces signal scintillation by significantly reducing speckle in the transmitted signal. The result is an optical link that does not need an adaptive optical control loop to correct for speckle and that may modularly replace conventional laser-based phase-coherent free space optical links typically used in free space optical link systems. Use of the described apparatus and methods results in reduced system size, reduced system weight, reduced system complexity, reduced power consumption, a lower initial system cost, a reduced failure rate, a decreased bit error rate, lower lifecycle maintenance costs, greater reliability, greater link availability, increased link throughput and improved network performance.